

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed March 7, 2005 has been carefully considered.

Reconsideration in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Applicants are further grateful for the indication of allowability of claims 4, 6-16, and 18-27 subject to their re-writing in independent form. Claim 4 has been rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of independent Claim 2 as required by the Office Action. Claims 6-10 and 18 have been amended to depend from amended independent Claim 4. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1-3, 5, and 17 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein.

The 35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejection

Claims 1-3, 5, and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being allegedly anticipated by Davies et al. (USP 6,483,805). Claims 1, 2, and 17 are independent claims. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1-3, 5, and 17 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn. In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully asserted that the claims are now in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

It is believed that this Amendment places the above-identified patent application into condition for allowance. Early favorable consideration of this Amendment is earnestly solicited.

If, in the opinion of the Examiner, an interview would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the number indicated below.

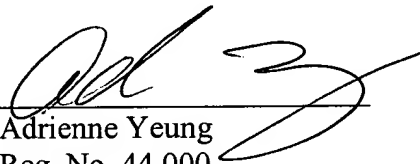
Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Please charge any additional required fee or credit any overpayment not otherwise paid or credited to our deposit account No. 50-1698.

Respectfully submitted,

THELEN REID & PRIEST, LLP

Dated: June 7, 2005


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